

PICK UP YOUR CROSS TO FOLLOW YOUR KING.

*“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”
(Albert Einstein)*

In light of the “model” early Church I am personally gripped with internal examination and the demand for change. The early Church held strongly to the “doctrine of renunciation.” I’ve been challenged to pursue a sanctified life, like all God fearing people should. My wife and I over the years made a lot of sacrifices in applying the scripture literally—“Come out” of Babylon. (Rev. 18:4) How? The “Babylonian matrix” is all around us! (The money system, “their” laws, property, employment, medical, schools, religion, politics, etc.) Everywhere we turn we are caught in its web of deceit. We must “come out” of one place in order to “enter into” another. We can’t be in two places at the same time. We’re not omnipresent—only God is. We can’t rightly be citizens of two kingdoms. What if those kingdoms are in conflict? Being a dual citizen inevitably will lead to conflict. We can’t serve two masters. You enter into the Kingdom of Heaven by stepping “out” in faith. “Out” of what? The world and all of its sensuality (led by the natural senses). “Things are not as they appear” so its crucial to put our trust totally in Christ. We are called to “walk by faith and not by sight.” My aim is to please my King in everything! How about you? Amen. We have to make tough decisions based on the fact that we are “not our own” and are held accountable for what we know. Keep this in mind as you continue. *“For we must **all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.**”* (2 Cor. 5:10-14)

I woke up from a dream with these words on my lips, **“To see the Kingdom of God you must come through the cross.”** I began to meditate on what this means. The scripture in Gal. 2:20 came to mind, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* A dead man isn’t concerned about his own will or way; A dead man isn’t offended; A dead man isn’t consumed with rank or position; A dead man isn’t lead by lusts; A dead man isn’t full of pride and selfish ambition—he is just dead! I believe this is the Word of the Lord to us. We need to be emptied of self and filled with Him. As the scripture says, “the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.” We need to operate by His faith to live a life of daily “surrender”—totally yielded as His possession as true disciples! We need to “pick up our cross” of denying our flesh and the “world” daily to follow Christ. Nothing else in this life matters! It’s a faith walk anchored in the revelation of Christ.

The Written Word says:

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. **8** Yea doubtless, and **I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,** **9** And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: **10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;** **11** If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. **12** Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but **I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.** **13** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting*

*those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.***" (Phil. 3:7-14)

I don't know about you but this is the life I want! When you are going through a challenge keep in mind, the temporary sacrifice is worth it in light of knowing Christ and eternal glory.